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Docket No. UF-340XC1  
Serial No. 10/731,528Remarks

Claims 6-9, 13-16, 21-23 and 25 were pending in the subject application. By this Amendment, the applicants have amended claim 21 and have canceled claim 7. No new subject matter has been added by these amendments. Accordingly, claims 6, 8, 9, 13-16, 21-23 and 25 are now before the Examiner for consideration.

The claim cancellation and amendment set forth herein have been done to expedite prosecution and to most clearly focus the claims on the allowable subject matter. The claim cancellation and amendment should not be interpreted to indicate that the applicants have agreed with, or acquiesced to, the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action. Favorable consideration of the claims now presented, in view of the remarks and amendment set forth herein, is earnestly solicited.

As an initial matter, the applicants wish to thank Examiner Badio for the indication of allowable claims in this case. The applicants believe that the currently pending claims are now in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Claim 7 has been objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. By this Amendment, the applicants have canceled claim 7 in order to expedite prosecution; therefore, rendering this objection under 37 CFR 1.75(c) moot.

Further, the applicants have amended claim 21 as the Examiner suggested by deleting the phrase "consist of" and inserting "is". The applicants appreciate the Examiner's helpful suggestion.

Also, the applicants wish to note that a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement (SIDS) and Form PTO/SB/08 were submitted to the U.S. Patent Office on October 25, 2006. The references cited in the SIDS were references that were cited in a corresponding Supplemental European Search Report. The applicants respectfully request that the Examiner make these references of record.

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In view of the foregoing remarks and the amendments above, the applicants believe that the currently pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 CFR §§1.16 or 1.17 as required by this paper to Deposit Account No. 19-0065.

The applicants also invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any of this response, or if the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,



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